Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 IGA-01 EB-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL/AID/NE:BRICHARDSON APPROVED BY NEA:MR. SOBER NEA/RA:DMORRISON (DRAFT) A/AA/NE:ADWHITE (DRAFT) NEA/ARN:MDRAPE

-----022316Z 039880 /21

P 022208Z APR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: U.S. AID TO LEBANON

REF: A) BEIRUT 1244; B) STATE 55234

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED RESPONSE OF AL-HOSS REPORTED REFTEL A RE INTERJECTION OF BOYCOTT ISSUE INTO U.S. AID PROGRAM FOR LEBANON; WE CONCUR WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT, GIVEN POSITION OF AL-HOSS, VEHICLES INVOLVED SHOULD BE DELETED FROM PROGRAM. AT SAME TIME, IF LEBANESE PERSIST IN THIS DECISION, WE BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT MONEY SET ASIDE ORIGINALLY FOR VEHICLES WILL BE DROPPED PERMANENTLY FROM OUR PROGRAM FOR LEBANON.

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2. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO RAISE SUBJECT ONCE MORE WHEN NEXT YOU SEE AL-HOSS. YOU SHOULD INFORM HIM OF FIRM U.S. POSITION ON THIS QUESTION (DRAWING, AS NECESSARY, ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL B) AND OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR AL-HOSS TO RECONSIDER HIS OPTIONS. HE SHOULD KNOW THAT WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DELETE VEHICLES FROM PACKAGE AND WITHDRAW EQUIVALENT AMOUNT (DOLS. 113,000)

FROM U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LEBANON, IF GOL POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IF AL-HOSS WISHES

PONDER MATTER FOR ADDITIONAL BRIEF PERIOD BEFORE CONVEYING RESPONSE. IF HE CHOOSES TO REITERATE HIS PREVIOUS POSITION IMMEDIATELY, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM HIM OFFICIALLY THAT WE WILL BE REDUCING PROGRAM BY AMOUNT NOTED (I.E., EARMARKED FUNDS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REPROGRAMMED FOR LEBANON). HE SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT USG IS UNABLE TO COUNTENANCE APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT IN ANY ELEMENT OR AT ANY STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF USG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

- 3. WE HOPE THAT AL-HOSS WILL ALTER HIS POSITION AND PERMIT US TO CARRY THROUGH WITH ALL ASPECTS OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH WE AND GOL AGREED IS IMPORTANT TO LEBANON'S RECOVERY EFFORT. WE HOPE GOL WILL MAKE DECISION TAKING ALL CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT AND WILL AWAIT YOUR REPORT BEFORE TAKING ACTION TO PROCEED WITH OR ABORT PROCUREMENT OF SUBJECT VEHICLES.
- 4. FYI FOR AMBASSADOR: YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT CONTINUED LEBANESE APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT CONSIDERATIONS TO ANY PART OF THE AID PROGRAM COULD JEOPARDIZE OTHER PARTS OF OR EVEN ENTIRE PROGRAM IN LEBANON. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BOYCOTTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE073551
Document Source: Concept Co

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: WNHOWELL/AID/NE:BRICHARDSON

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770115-0780

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770494/aaaaddzx.tel

Line Count: 88 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 385401ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Reference: 77 BEIRUT 1244, 77 STATE 55234

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2916147 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT: U.S. AID TO LEBANON

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, PFOR, LE, US

To: BEIRUT Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/385401ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009